



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

RYAN, et al.

Serial No.: 09/725,182

Filed: 29 November 2000

For: Novel and Practical Serological assay for the
Clinical Diagnosis of Leishmaniasis

Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: Baskar, Padma

Atty. Docket: P66748US1 (98-41X)

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AMENDMENT UNDER 35 C.F.R. 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action mailed 31 July 2001, the response to which is set to expire on 31 October 2001. The pending claims, claims 1-8, 11-20, 27 and 29, were rejected. Reconsideration and entry of the following amendment are respectfully requested.

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) An immunoassay for detecting exposure to *Leishmania* parasites in a subject comprising the steps of:
- contacting a sample from the subject suspected of having leishmaniasis with a soluble antigen prepared by culturing the *Leishmania* parasites in a protein-free medium comprising an oncotic agent; and
 - detecting the presence or measuring the amount of an antibody or fragment thereof in the sample bound to the soluble antigen.